

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The following programs are available to help Connecticut residents with their heating bills, and in conserving energy.

**Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)**-helps households pay for primary heating bills. If the household's primary heating costs are included in your rent, you may also apply for assistance.

## You may be eligible if

- ♦ you receive cash assistance from the State (Temporary Family Assistance, Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled, or Refugee Assistance);
- ♦ your household receives Food Stamps;
- ♦ your household receives State General Assistance; or,
- ♦ Your annual household income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty guideline.



**CEAP also helps households with elderly (aged 60 and over) or disabled members pay for their primary heating bills. To be eligible, household income could be up to 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines.**

A Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) will be implemented to assist households with incomes up to 60% of the State Median Income Guidelines.

Call 2-1-1 Infoline or a Community Action Agency to check on income guidelines and find out where to apply in your area.

**There is also a liquid assets test to determine eligibility for CEAP.**



**DON'T WAIT  
TO  
APPLY!  
CALL  
2-1-1  
INFOLINE  
TODAY!**

**Weatherization Assistance Program** - You may be eligible for free assistance in weatherizing your home or apartment. (Your application for Energy Assistance is also an application for Weatherization Assistance.) Measures may include insulation of your attic and/or walls, storm windows and servicing of your heating system. Contact your local CAA or call **1-800-842-1132** for additional information.

## OTHER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS

**Private Fuel Banks** - Many Connecticut towns have private fuel banks that provide winter energy assistance to local residents who do not qualify for the above programs.

For more information, call 2-1-1 Infoline and ask for the location of the fuel bank nearest you.

**Utility Arrearage Forgiveness Programs** - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer assistance programs that can help customers pay a portion of their utility back bills. (There are eligibility requirements in order to qualify.) For more information, contact your utility company or your local CAA.

**Winter Protection Program (Utility Shutoff Moratorium)** - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies participate in the Winter Protection Program. Participants in this program will be coded by their utility companies as "hardship cases", and will not have their utility service shut off between November 1 and April 15 of each year. For more information, contact your utility companies.

**Utility Conservation Programs** - Most of Connecticut's gas and electric utility companies offer energy conservation materials and services that are free for lower income households. Contact your local utility company for information.

**Energy Conservation Loan Program** - You may be eligible for a low-interest loan to pay for insulation, energy conservation measures, heating improvements and renewable resource improvements for your home. For more information, contact the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF) at 1-800-992-3665.

## COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES



The Community Action Committee of Danbury, Inc.	(203) 748-5422
New Opportunities, Inc.	(203) 756-8151
Bristol Community Organization, Inc.	(860) 582-7490
Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc.	(860) 223-2288
Community Renewal Team, Inc.	1-800-798-3805 (860) 560-5800
The ACCESS Agency, Inc.	1-800-260-0400 (860) 450-7423
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc.	(860)-425-6681
New Opportunities For Greater Meriden (Sponsored by NO, Inc.)	(203) 235-0278
Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc.	(203) 387-7700
TEAM, Inc.	(203) 736-5420
Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc.	(203) 384-6904
Norwalk Economic Opportunity NOW, Inc.	(203) 899-2483
CTE, Inc.	(203) 352-4846

Or call 2-1-1 Infoline

DSS Energy Website: [www.ct.gov/staywarm](http://www.ct.gov/staywarm)

## WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

1. Have your heating system cleaned and tuned yearly for best efficiency.
2. Set your hot water heater to 120°.
3. Do not block heating or cooling vents with a bed, carpet, couch, dresser or other pieces of solid furniture.
4. Take short showers or baths.
5. Washing and rinsing your clothes in cold water can save over \$50 a year. Your laundry detergent not the water temperature whitens your clothes.
6. Turn down the thermostats when you are asleep or gone during the day.
7. Cover your pots when cooking to reduce the amount of heat needed and cooking time. Use a lower setting and save \$15 each year.
8. Turn off the oven five minutes before you have finished baking to take advantage of built-up heat.
9. Your refrigerator will work better if you clean and dust the back and bottom yearly.
10. Seal off fireplaces when not in use to prevent heat loss.



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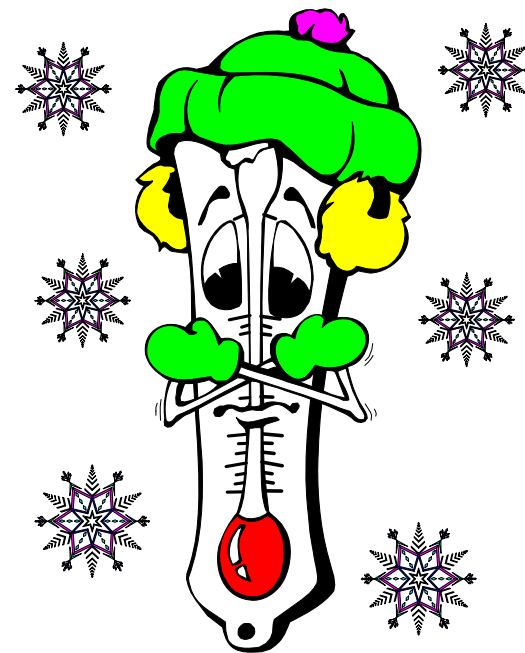
The Department of Social Services' programs are available to all applicants and recipients without regard to race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, learning disabilities, national origin, ancestry or language barriers. The department has a TDD/TTY line for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired and have a TDD/TTY: 1-800-842-4524. Auxiliary aids are also available for blind or visually impaired persons.

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# DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD!



# YOU CAN GET HELP PAYING YOUR HEATING BILL!